

Message Text

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17-12

ACTION NEA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3040

S E C R E T ANKARA 1654

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CENTO

SUBJECT: CENTO: DRAFT POLITICAL GUIDANCE FOR MILITARY PLANNING

REF: ANKARA 1634

BEGIN SUMMARY: TEXT OF CENTO SECRETARIAT'S DRAFT POLITICAL GUIDANCE PAPER WAS PROVIDED REFTEL AND MEETING OF POLITICAL WORKING GROUP CALLED FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 7, AT 1430, TO EXCHANGE INFORMAL OPINIONS OVER THIS FIRST DRAFT, OPINIONS WHICH SYG ASSAR MAY WANT TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT DURING HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT TO WASHINGTON. WE BELIEVE PAPER'S DIRECTIVES TO MILITARY PLANNERS COULD PROVE EXTREMELY TROUBLE-SOME. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING ARE EMB'S INITIAL VIEWS OF SECRETARIAT'S DRAFT POLITICAL GUIDANCE PAPER:

A. EXCEPT FOR SECTION V -- DIRECTIVES FOR MILITARY PLANNING -- THE PAPER DOES NOT CONTAIN ELEMENTS THAT COULD NOT SOMEHOW BE CORRECTED OR RE-INTERPRETED. A REAL PROBLEM, IN OUR OPINION, IS TO BE FOUND IN SECTION V. IT WILL BE TROUBLESOME

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IN THE LONG RUN IF CENTO MILITARY AUTHORITIES MAKE ANY RPT ANY

KIND OF CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR POSSIBLE CONFLICTS BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN, OR BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN, EVEN IF THIS IS DONE WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF SOVIET INSPIRED OR SUPPORTED MOVES. SECTION V FORTUNATELY DOES NOT YET MENTION OTHER POSSIBLE REGIONAL CONFLICTS. LEFT AS IT IS, HOWEVER, WITH ITS STRESS ON THE SOVIETS' INDIRECT APPROACH AND INTERFERENCE BY PROXY, THIS GUIDANCE COULD POSSIBLY GIVE PAKISTAN THE LEVER IT HAS SOUGHT IN THE PAST WITH WHICH TO INVOLVE ITS CENTO ALLIES MORE DIRECTLY IN ITS ARGUMENTS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS. IT CONCEIVABLY COULD PRODUCE GREATER PAKISTANI PRESSURE ON ITS CENTO PARTNERS FOR ARMS ASSISTANCE IN THE MEANTIME. THESE AND RELATED REASONS JUSTIFY THE USG'S LONG RESISTANCE TO SETTING FORTH POLITICAL GUIDANCE.

B. THE MILK IS NOW SPILLED AND THE PROBLEM, AS WE SEE IT, IS TO GIVE THE MILITARY PLANNERS SOME CREDIBLE SUGGESTIONS WITHOUT, HOWEVER, MOVING THEM TO MAKE PLANS FOR LOCALIZED CONTINGENCIES, OR FOR CONTINGENCIES IN WHICH WE WOULD PREFER TO KEEP OUR FREEDOM OF ACTION.

C. AS AN INITIAL STEP, IT OCCURS TO US THAT WE MIGHT INSIST THAT PLANNING ONLY FOCUS ON CONTINGENCIES IN WHICH THE SOVIET MILITARY RPT MILITARY HAND WOULD SHOW CLEARLY. WE MIGHT ALSO TRY TO WIDEN THE FOCUS OF THE GUIDANCE AND THEREBY FUZZ OVER THE POSSIBILITIES OF REGIONAL CONFLICTS AND INTERFERENCE BY PROXY. ONE WAY WOULD BE TO CHARGE THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES MORE EXPLICITLY THAN HERETOFORE WITH RESPONSIBILITIES FOR: (1) REGULARLY ASSESSING SOVIET MILITARY INTENTIONS AND CAPABILITIES IN THE REGION; (2) MONITORING SUCH SOVIET MILITARY-DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITIES AS THE ACTIONS OF THE SOVIET FLEET IN THE PERSIAN GULF AND INDIAN OCEAN; AND (3) DEVISING AND HELPING TO EXECUTE CENTO-SPONSORED MILITARY ACTIVITIES THAT WOULD HELP COUNTER-BALANCE THE EFFECTS OF SOVIET DIPLOMATIC-MILITARY ACTIVITIES MENTIONED ABOVE. BY CENTO-SPONSORED MILITARY ACTIVITIES, WE WOULD INCLUDE THE WHOLE RANGE OF ACTIONS WHICH THE CENTO MILITARY AUTHORITIES NOW CARRY OUT (E.G., JOINT EXERCISES, EXCHANGE OF INTELLIGENCE, TRAINING IN CERTAIN TECHNIQUES, PORT CALLS, ETC.).

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2. COMMENT: WE RECOGNIZE THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR DEPARTMENT TO SEND GUIDANCE TO US FOR INFORMAL MEETING ON MARCH 7; HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS WHO WILL BE TALKING WITH SYG ASSAR DURING HIS WASHINGTON VISIT SHOULD BE PREPARED TO MAKE SOME SUGGESTIONS ON THIS PAPER AND, AT THE LEAST, CAUTION HIM ABOUT THE DIRECTIONS IN WHICH SUCH POLITICAL GUIDANCE MAY TAKE THE MILITARY

PLANNERS.
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